

Oceanside-Escondido Rail Corridor

San Diego, California

(November 2002)

Description

The North County Transit District (NCTD) will be converting an existing 22-mile freight rail corridor into a diesel multiple unit (DMU) transit system running east from the coastal city of Oceanside through the cities of Vista, San Marcos, and unincorporated portions of San Diego County, to the City of Escondido. The alignment will include approximately a 1.7-mile loop of new right-of-way to serve the campus of California State University-San Marcos (CSUSM). The proposed project is located along the State Highway 78 corridor, which connects Interstate Highways 5 and 15, the primary east-west corridor in Northern San Diego County. The proposed project also includes 15 stations, 12 diesel multiple unit vehicles, and a maintenance and storage facility. Four stations will be located at existing transit centers. NCTD estimates that average daily ridership in 2020 will total 19,000 passengers.

The total project cost under the currently proposed Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) is \$351.52 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding share is \$152.10 million.

Status

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Oceanside-Escondido Rail project and an EIR for the CSUSM alignment were published and certified in 1990 and 1991, respectively. An Environmental Assessment/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EA/SEIR) was completed in early 1997. The North County Transit Development Board certified the SEIR in March 1997 and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) issued a Finding of No Significant Impact in October 1997. FTA approved the project entry into Final Design in February 2000. The U.S. Department of Transportation recommended the project for an FFGA in the FY 2002 Annual New Starts Report. FTA and NCTD anticipate executing an FFGA in December 2002 with a revenue operations date scheduled for December 31, 2005. Construction is scheduled to start in early 2003.

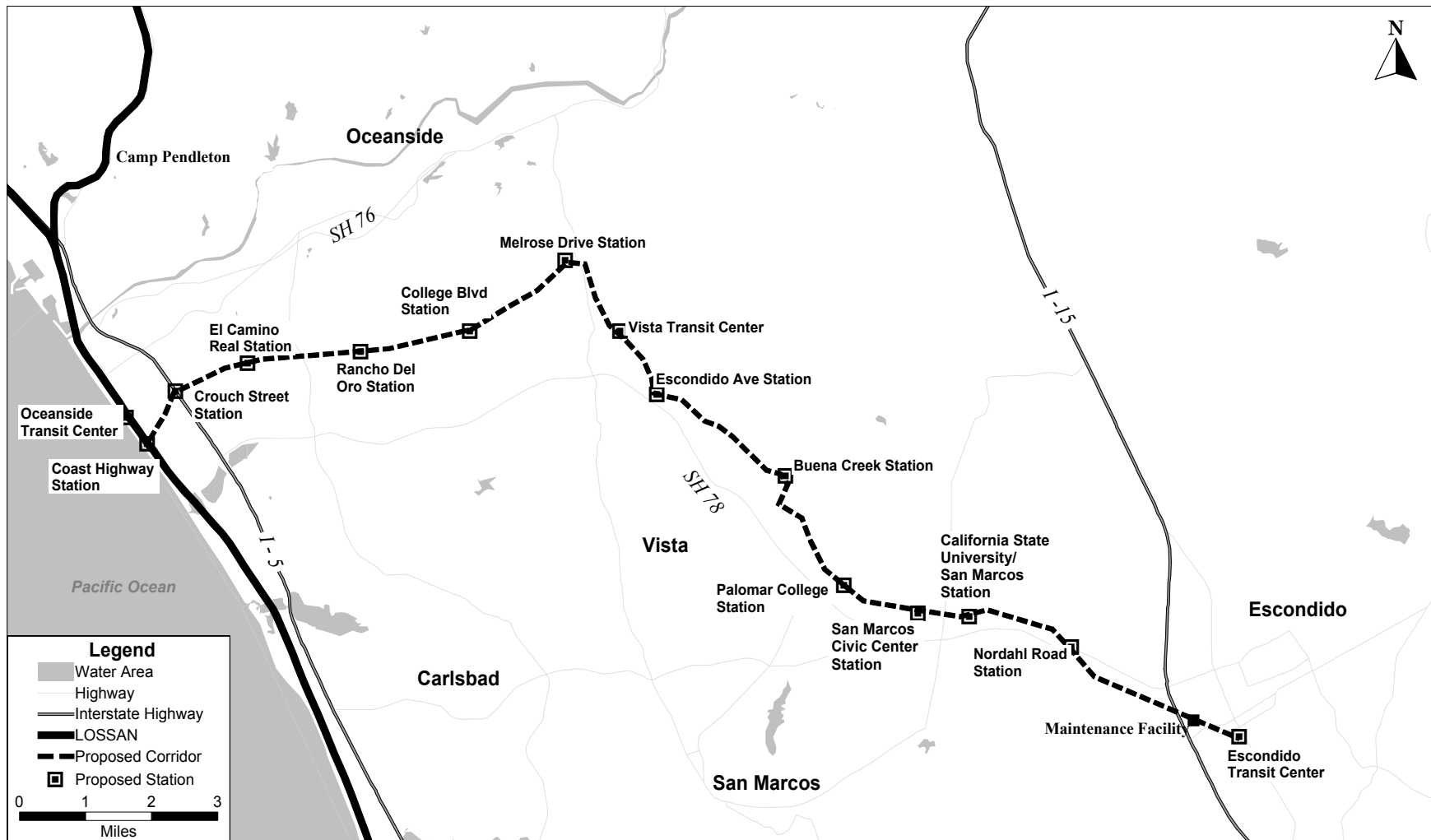
Section 3030(a)(77) authorizes the Oceanside-Escondido Corridor for Final Design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$24.28 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds to the project.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal: Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment	\$152.10	\$24.28 million appropriated through FY 2002
State: 108	\$ 19.47	
STIP	\$ 7.34	
TCRP	\$ 88.52	
Local: Transnet (NCTD)	\$ 67.38	
Transnet (MTDB)	\$ 11.29	
Regional TIP	\$ 5.42	
TOTAL	\$351.52	

NOTE: Total may not add due to rounding.

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